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ABSTRACT

In this address, Congresswoman Chisholm criticizes the Federal youth policy and the low priority with which youth service programs are regarded by the Congress. The Congresswoman's efforts on issues affecting youth, and particularly juvenile delinquency, have been guided by her belief that there is a lack of Federal programs and agencies which impact upon the needs of young people and that youth alienation from the educational institutions are often the first step toward delinquency and crime. The increase in serious school delinquency reflects this growing alienation of young people from the schools. One of the ways to combat school based delinquency is to develop alternative programs that students will find relevant. Although interest was shown in this area by the Office of Juvenile Delinquency, it has not made concrete efforts to develop programs. Other problems with the Federal juvenile justice effort which also cast doubt upon this office's leadership include the cancellation of two inter-agency agreements regarding youth employment and residential improvement of public housing authorities, and the office's failure to expend its funds as appropriated by Congress. It is important to move for Congressional hearings on the fund allocation question, as well as on other issues concerning the record of the Office of Juvenile Justice in placing minority groups into policy positions. (Author/AM)

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ADDRESS BY THE HONORABLE SHIRLEY CHISHOLM

BEFORE THE SECOND ANNUAL YOUTH WORKERS CONFERENCE

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

JUNE 8, 1978

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

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DEAR FRIENDS,

ALTHOUGH I AM HONORED TO JOIN YOU THIS MORNING, I HAVE NOT COME HERE MERELY TO SPEW BENIGN PLATITUDES ABOUT HOW WONDERFUL YOUNG PEOPLE ARE, OR FOR THAT MATTER HOW WONDERFUL YOUR PROGRAMS ARE, AND THEIR IMPORTANCE TO OUR YOUTH. THE REASON I AM HERE IS THAT I AM DEEPLY ANGRY BY THE SHAMBLE WHICH WE CALL OUR FEDERAL YOUTH POLICY, AND THE LOW PRIORITY WHICH YOUTH SERVICE PROGRAMS ARE REGARDED BY OUR CONGRESS. EVERYTHING IS NOT WONDERFUL. PROGRAMS AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL ARE IN A CRISIS STATE, AND I SHARE WITH YOU MY PERSONAL FRUSTRATION WHICH STEMS FROM THE REALIZATION THAT WHILE WE ARE STYMIED BY OUR OWN BUREAUCRATIC INERTIA, OUR YOUNG PEOPLE, WHO ARE THIS NATION'S MOST PRECIOUS RESOURCE, SUFFER ACUTELY FROM A LACK OF OPPORTUNITY, HOPE, AND VISION.

I BELIEVE THAT THE TIME HAS LONG PAST FOR SOME OF THESE BUREAUCRATS TO WAKE UP TO THE ALIENATION AND FRUSTRATION WHICH COMPRISE THE DAY-TO-DAY EXISTENCE OF TOO MANY YOUNG PEOPLE IN AMERICA. WHETHER YOU TALK TO THE BLACK YOUTH IN BEDFORD-STUYVESANT, THE CHICANO BROTHERS & SISTERS IN EAST LOS ANGELES, THE NATIVE AMERICAN YOUTH ON THE NAVAJO RESERVATION, THE ASIAN YOUTH IN CHINATOWNS ACROSS THE NATION, OR OUR TROUBLED WHITE BROTHERS AND SISTERS THERE IS A COMMONALITY OF

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PROBLEMS WHICH IS AN INDICTMENT OF THIS SOCIETY, AND THE LEGACY WHICH WE ARE SUPPOSED TO BEQUEATH TO THIS FUTURE GENERATION. AT THE SAME TIME, IT IS NO LONGER ENOUGH TO SIMPLY BLAME SOCIETY IN GENERAL FOR THE ECONOMIC AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION WHICH DEVASTATES THE FUTURE OF SO MANY YOUNG PEOPLE. THOSE OF US HERE THIS MORNING SHOULD BE SUFFICIENTLY ATTUNED TO THE POLITICAL SYSTEMS TO REALIZE THAT THE COMMITMENT DOES NOT PRESENTLY EXIST IN WASHINGTON, AND OUR YOUNG PEOPLE ARE SUFFERING AS A RESULT.

DURING THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS, I HAVE CLOSELY MONITORED OUR FEDERAL YOUTH PROGRAMS AND POLICIES, AND IN PARTICULAR THE ROLE OF THE OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUSTICE & DELINQUENCY PREVENTION. MY FINDINGS HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY DISTURBING, AND I WILL NOT BE PULLING ANY PUNCHES HERE THIS MORNING. I APPEAL TO EACH OF YOU TO USE THE COLLECTIVE STRENGTH WHICH EXISTS HERE AT THIS CONFERENCE TO MAKE DEMANDS UPON THIS CONGRESS AND THIS ADMINISTRATION TO RESPOND MORE MEANINGFULLY IN FUNDING AND DEVELOPING INITIATIVES GEARED TO THE SERIOUS PROBLEMS FACED BY YOUNG PEOPLE IN TODAY'S SOCIETY.

AS YOU MAY KNOW, I WAS A TEACHER AND EDUCATOR LONG BEFORE I BECAME A POLITICIAN, AND MY FOREMOST INTEREST IN THE CONGRESS HAS BEEN IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION, AND EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE. MY INTEREST AND EFFORTS ON ISSUES AFFECTING YOUTH, AND PARTICULARLY JUVENILE DELINQUENCY, HAVE BEEN GUIDED BY TWO FIRMLY HELD BELIEFS:

FIRST, THERE IS A REAL LACK OF COORDINATION AMONG THE VARIOUS

FEDERAL PROGRAMS AND AGENCIES WHICH IMPACT UPON THE NEEDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE. STRUCTURES SUCH AS THE OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUSTICE ARE DESIGNED TO BRING ABOUT THIS NEEDED COORDINATION OF EFFORT. WHEN MECHANISMS SUCH AS THESE BECOME ENTANGLED AND INEFFECTIVE, WE FIND TOO MANY TROUBLED YOUNG PEOPLE GETTING LOST IN BETWEEN THE BUREAUCRATIC CRACKS AND CREVICES IN FEDERAL YOUTH POLICY.

SECOND, I BELIEVE THAT WHILE ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS ARE CRITICAL, YOUTH ALIENATION FROM OUR EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IS SO OFTEN THE FIRST STEP TOWARD DELINQUENCY AND CRIME. FOR THIS REASON, MUCH OF MY ATTENTION HAS FOCUSED ON THE NEED TO DEVELOP SOLUTIONS FOR SCHOOL-BASED DELINQUENCY, AND ALTERNATIVES IN EDUCATION.

JUST LAST DECEMBER, THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION RELEASED ITS MAJOR TWO VOLUME STUDY ON SCHOOL VIOLENCE & VANDALISM. THE "SAFE SCHOOL STUDY" DOCUMENTED THE SERIOUS PROBLEM OF SCHOOL-BASED DELINQUENCY WHICH AFFECTS ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY EDUCATION. ALTHOUGH YOUNG PEOPLE SPEND NO MORE THAN 25% OF THEIR WAKING HOURS IN SCHOOL, SOME 40% OF THE ROBBERIES AND 36% OF THE ASSAULTS UPON TEENAGERS OCCURED IN SCHOOL. THE CHILDREN'S DEFENSE FUND AND OTHER GROUPS HAVE ALSO DONE EXCELLENT RESEARCH ON THE INAPPROPRIATE AND ARBITRARY APPLICATION OF SUSPENSIONS AND EXPULSIONS TO DEAL WITH THE LACK OF DISCIPLINE IN OUR SCHOOL SETTING.

TOO OFTEN EDUCATORS LOOK AT SCHOOL-BASED DELINQUENCY AS THOUGH IT WERE THE PROBLEM. IT IS NOT MY FRIENDS - IT IS A SYMPTOM, THOUGH A SERIOUS ONE. SERIOUS RATES OF DELINQUENCY AND INCREASING SUSPENSIONS POINT TO THE REAL CRISIS IN AMERICAN EDUCATION: THERE IS

A GROWING ALIENATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE FROM OUR OFTEN IMPERSONAL EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, COMBINED WITH AN INCREASING INABILITY OF SCHOOLS TO IMPART A SENSE OF DISCIPLINE AND EVEN THE MOST BASIC SKILLS. THERE IS A FEELING THAT MOST OF OUR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS LACK RELEVANCE TO THE DEMANDS YOUNG PEOPLE BELIEVE THEY WILL FEEL AS ADULTS. WHAT WE SEE IS THE IGNITION OF A POWDER KEG OF BITTERNESS, ANGER, AND FRUSTRATION IN OUR YOUNG PEOPLE.

IF OUR RESPONSE TO THIS SYMPTOM IS BUILDING BETTER LOCKS, FENCES, SECURITY AND ALARM SYSTEMS, WE WILL ONLY DO OUR YOUNG PEOPLE A GREATER DISSERVICE. THE ALIENATION WHICH HAS BROUGHT TENSION TO THE CLASSROOM IS ALSO REFLECTED IN A GROWING SUICIDE RATE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE. ACCORDING TO THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS, THE SUICIDE RATE FOR YOUNG WHITE MALES AGED 15-19 HAS GROWN 171% IN THE PERIOD FROM 1950-1975. THIS IS IN CONTRAST TO A SUICIDE RATE FOR WHITE AMERICANS WHICH INCREASED ONLY 18% OVERALL IN THIS PERIOD. WILL ADDED SECURITY OFFICERS, GUARD DOGS, ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE, CYCLONE FENCES, OR BREAK RESISTENT WINDOWS MAKE THE LIVES OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE MORE MEANINGFUL AND VITAL? I HARDLY THINK SO.

IN JANUARY, I TESTIFIED BEFORE THE SAFE SCHOOL HEARINGS OF THE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE EDUCATION & LABOR COMMITTEE. THE PRIMARY THRUST OF MY TESTIMONY WAS FOR THE NEED OF ALTERNATIVE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AS A MEANS OF REVITALIZING OUR SCHOOLS THROUGH ACADEMIC PROGRAMS WHICH STUDENTS FIND RELEVANT. FOLLOWING MY TESTIMONY, MR. JOHN RECTOR, ADMINISTRATOR OF THE OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUSTICE, MADE A PRESENTATION BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE IN

WHICH HE REFERRED TO CONCERN FOR ALTERNATIVE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS. IN FACT TO CITE DIRECTLY FROM HIS TESTIMONY, MR. RECTOR STATED THAT HE WAS "VERY EXCITED" ABOUT AN ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM WHICH WOULD BE A PRIMARY INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUSTICE THIS YEAR. IT IS NOW JUNE, AND THERE HAS BEEN NO ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION INITIATIVE, AND THERE IS NO WORD WHETHER THERE WILL BE ONE AT ALL THIS YEAR. IN FACT, IN JANUARY I WROTE TO MR. RECTOR ASKING THAT WE GET TOGETHER TO DISCUSS THE DETAILS OF SUCH A PROGRAM, AND HE HAS NOT YET RESPONDED TO MY REQUEST FOR SUCH A MEETING.

IT IS EXACTLY THIS TYPE OF BUREAUCRATIC DOUBLETALK AND HYPOCRISY WHICH HAS ME SO ALARMED ABOUT THE DIRECTION OF THE OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUSTICE. FURTHER, THE FAILURE OF MR. RECTOR TO ACT IN A TIMELY FASHION TO IMPLEMENT PROGRAMS SO DESPERATELY NEEDED IS HAVING SEVERE RAMIFICATIONS IN CONGRESS. JUST LAST WEEK, THE ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT, H.R. 15, WHICH REAUTHORIZES FEDERAL ASSISTANCE FOR ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY EDUCATION, WAS SCHEDULED TO COME TO THE HOUSE FLOOR. JUST TWO DAYS PRIOR TO ITS INTENDED CONSIDERATION, REP. MARIO BIAGGI ANNOUNCED HIS INTENTION TO OFFER AN AMENDMENT TO PROVIDE $15 MILLION IN THIS BILL FOR SCHOOL SECURITY PROGRAMS. GRANTS WOULD BE AVAILABLE ONLY TO THE 15 SCHOOL DISTRICTS NATIONALLY WITH THE HIGHEST INCIDENCE OF REPORTED CRIME, FURTHER, IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR SUCH A GRANT A LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY WOULD HAVE HAD TO ADOPT GUIDLEINES REQUIRING THE REPORTING OF EVERY OFFENSE TO THE LOCAL POLICE. I AM EXTREMELY CONCERNED THAT SUCH REQUIREMENTS WOULD

ENCOURAGE SCHOOLS TO INFLATE THEIR FIGURES FOR VIOLENCE AND VANDALISM IN ORDER TO QUALIFY FOR FUNDS. THE RANGE OF ACTIVITIES UNDER THIS PROGRAM ARE ALMOST SOLELY LIMITED TO SCHOOL SECURITY, HIRING OF GUARDS,ACQUISITION OF EQUIPMENT, AND THE ALTERATION OF PHYSICAL PLANT TO DETER CRIME. I BELIEVE THAT SUCH A PROGRAM WOULD BE EXTREMELY REGRESSIVE, IN THAT OUR EFFORTS SHOULD BE GEARED TO REMOVING YOUNG PEOPLE FROM THE JUVENILE JUSTICE FIELD, AND NOT TOWARD GREATER INVOLVEMENT OF POLICE IN THE SCHOOLS. WE WERE FORTUNATE THAT DUE TO THE PRESS OF OTHER LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS, ACTION ON H.R. 15 HAS BEEN DELAYED AT LEAST THROUGH NEXT WEEK, BUT I AM DEEPLY CONCERNED THAT VOICES BE HEARD IN OPPOSITION TO SUCH A MEASURE. JUST THIS WEEK, I WAS AMAZED TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS IN SUPPORT OF THE BIAGGI AMENDMENT. AS MORE ATTENTION IS DRAWN TO THE PROBLEM IN OUR SCHOOLS, THERE WILL ONLY BE INCREASING PRESSURE TO TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTIONS ALONG THESE LINES. MR. RECTOR'S FAILURE TO TAKE CHARGE IN THIS SITUATION IS CREATING A POTENTIAL THREAT TO THE DIRECTION OF JUVENILE JUSTICE PROGRAMS. I WAS ASSURED BY HIM THAT THERE WAS NO NEED FOR MY INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION AUTHORIZING AN ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM, BUT UNLESS I SEE SOME SIGNS OF ACTION, YOU CAN BE ASSURED THAT SUCH A BILL WILL BE INTRODUCED IN THE NEXT MONTH.

I ISSUE THIS AS A CHALLENGE TO MR. RECTOR, AS I BELIEVE THAT THE BURDEN RESTS WITH HIM TO DEMONSTRATE THAT HE IS MOVING FORCEFULLY TO IMPLEMENT PROGRAMS WHICH HAVE BEEN MANDATED BY CONGRESS, AND ARE DESPERATELY NEEDED BY OUR YOUNG PEOPLE.

THERE ARE TWO OTHER PROBLEMS WITH THE FEDERAL JUVENILE JUSTICE EFFORT WHICH ALSO CAST DOUBT UPON THE LEADERSHIP AND DIRECTION OF THE OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUSTICE:

FIRST, I UNDERSTAND FROM DISCUSSIONS WITH OFFICIALS WITH OTHER AGENCIES THAT TWO INTER-AGENCY AGREEMENTS REGARDING YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AND RESIDENTIAL IMPROVEMENT OF PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITIES WERE CANCELLED ABRUPTLY BY MR. RECTOR LAST YEAR. ALTHOUGH I CANNOT SPEAK TO THE SPECIFICS, THESE GRANTS WOULD HAVE EXCEEDED $6 MILLION, AND COULD HAVE BEEN OF GREAT ASSISTANCE TO YOUTH PROGRAMS NATIONWIDE. IT IS EXACTLY THIS TYPE OF COORDINATION AND INTER-AGENCY COOPERATION WHICH OJJDP IS DESIGNED TO STIMULATE. I ALSO KNOW THAT THE JUVENILE JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL, WHICH COMPRISES TOP OFFICIALS FROM OTHER AGENCIES RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUTH POLICY, HAS NOT MET ONCE THIS YEAR. WHY IS A MECHANISM SUCH AS THIS, WHICH IS SO VITAL TO COORDINATION BEING TOTALLY IGNORED?

SECOND, AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, I AM TROUBLED BY THE FAILURE OF THE OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUSTICE AND MR. RECTOR TO OBLIGATE AND EXPEND ITS FUNDS AS APPROPRIATED BY CONGRESS. SO MANY OF OUR YOUTH ADVOCACY AND SERVICE PROGRAMS ARE DYING ON THE VINE FOR LACK OF RESOURCES, YET THERE SEEMS TO BE A LINGERING INABILITY TO MAKE AWARDS TO INITIATE AND SUPPORT EFFORTS AT THE LOCAL LEVEL.

REALIZING THE SEVERE FINANCIAL STRAINS FACED BY YOUTH SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS IN BROOKLYN AND OTHER COMMUNITIES, I HAD PLANNED TO OFFER AN AMENDMENT THIS YEAR TO INCREASE FUNDING FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE, BUT WHEN I WAS PRESENTED WITH THE DOCUMENTATION SHOWING HOW FEW OF THE DOLLARS HAD ACTUALLY BEEN SPENT, I KNEW THAT THERE

WAS NO WAY A CASE COULD BE MADE FOR SUCH AN INCREASE.

AS YOU KNOW, FUNDS FROM THE OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUSTICE & DELINQUENCY PREVENTION ARE DIVIDED BETWEEN STATE FORMULA GRANTS AND THE SPECIAL EMPHASIS GRANTS. IT IS A DISGRACE TO SEE HOW FEW OF THE DOLLARS HAVE REACHED YOUNG PEOPLE AT THE LOCAL LEVEL.

FOR THE STATE FORMULA GRANTS PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEARS '76, '77, & '78, CONGRESS APPROPRIATED A TOTAL OF $131 MILLION. AS OF MAY 1978, $126 MILLION HAD BEEN OBLIGATED TO THE STATES, BUT ACCORDING TO LEAA, ONLY $18 MILLION OF THE TOTAL $131 MILLION APPROPRIATED OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS HAS ACTUALLY BEEN SPENT.

WHILE IT MAY BE ARGUED THAT EXPENDITURES OF THESE FUNDS ARE A STATE RESPONSIBILITY, THERE CERTAINLY NEEDS TO BE GREATER GUIDANCE FROM OJJDP TO ENCOURAGE ALLOCATION OF FUNDS TO LOCAL PROJECTS. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE SPECIAL EMPHASIS PROGRAM IS WHOLLY DISCRETIONARY, AND IS AWARDED DIRECTLY TO INNOVATIVE LOCAL INITIATIVES. SINCE FISCAL YEAR '76, $64 MILLION HAS BEEN APPROPRIATED FOR SPECIAL EMPHASIS PROGRAMS, AND AS OF MAY, ONLY $17 MILLION HAD EVEN BEEN OBLIGATED, AND OF THAT ONLY $8 MILLION OUT OF THE TOTAL $64 MILLION HAS BEEN SPENT. IN FISCAL YEAR 1977 & 1978, NOT ONE DOLLAR HAS BEEN EXPENDED OR OBLIGATED ACCORDING TO LEAA.

IF THIS SITUATION WERE NOT BAD ENOUGH, I HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUSTICE HAS BEEN FUNDING A NUMBER OF UNSOLICITED PROPOSALS. THIS CIRCUMVENTION OF THE FEDERAL GUIDELINES FOR ALLOCATING FUNDS APPARENTLY SERVES THE PURPOSE OF REWARDING FAVORED GROUPS, WHILE NOT ISSUING GUIDELINES

EFFECTIVELY EXCLUDES OTHER GROUPS FROM EVEN COMPETING. IT IS TRAGIC THAT SO LITTLE HAS BEEN DONE IN THE SPECIAL EMPHASIS AREA. AS DEFINED BY THE LEGISLATION PASSED BY CONGRESS, PROGRAMS IDENTIFIED FOR SPECIAL EMPHASIS INCLUDE PROGRAMS OF DIVERSION FROM JUVENILE JUSTICE, PROGRAMS WHICH FOCUS ON THE POSSIBLE CORRELATION BETWEEN LEARNING DISABILITIES AND DELINQUENCY, PROMOTION OF ALTERNATIVE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AS A MEANS OF COPING WITH SCHOOL-BASED DELINQUENCY, DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY-BASED ALTERNATIVES TO INSTITUTIONALIZATION, AND OTHERS. THESE INITIATIVES COULD HAVE A FANTASTIC IMPACT UPON INNER-CITY YOUTH, YET ON PAPER, THEY CAN HAVE LITTLE IMPACT.

I HAVE NOT COME HERE TO ATTACK THE EXISTENCE OF THE OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUSTICE, AS I HAVE BEEN ACTIVE IN ITS CONTINUATION SINCE ITS ENACTMENT IN 1974. BUT I FEEL STRONGLY THAT WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO MONITOR PROGRAMS OF SUCH IMPORTANCE TO OUR YOUNG PEOPLE, AND I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT WE CAN AFFORD TO OVERLOOK THE DISCREPANCIES WHICH I HAVE CITED. I AM COMMITTED TO WORKING FOR THE IMPOVEMENT OF OUR EFFORTS, AND EXPANDING THE FEDERAL ROLE, BUT WE MUST WORK TOGETHER TO BRING ABOUT THE NECESSARY ACCOUNTABILITY FROM THE OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUSTICE AND ITS LEADERSHIP. I HAVE PUT THESE QUESTIONS TO YOU, AS I BELIEVE THEY DESERVE TO BE ANSWERED. IF THE RESPONSE DOES NOT MEET OUR EXPECTATION, I ASSURE YOU THAT I WILL MOVE FOR CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS ON THE FUNDS ALLOCATION QUESTION, AS WELL AS OTHER ISSUES WHICH NEED TO BE RAISED SUCH AS THE RECORD OF THE OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUSTICE IN PLACING BLACKS,

HISPANICS, ASIANS, AND NATIVE AMERICANS INTO POLICY POSITIONS. CLEARLY THESE COMMUNITIES ARE IMPACTED HEAVILY BY THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM, AND IT IS IMPORTANT THAT INDIVIDUALS WITH SENSITIVITY TO THE SPECIAL NEEDS AND EXPERIENCES OF THESE GROUPS ARE PLACED IN DECISION-MAKING ROLES.

DURING THE NEXT THREE DAYS, I HOPE THAT YOU, TOO, WILL TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ASK QUESTIONS, AND DARE TO CHALLENGE A FEDERAL SYSTEM OF PRIORITIES WHICH PLACES YOUNG PEOPLE AFTER DEFENSE SPENDING, HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION, AND TAX LOOPHOLES FOR MAJOR CORPORATIONS. ONLY THROUGH SUSTAINED MONITORING AND PRESSURE CAN WE HOPE TO CHANGE THE POLICIES AND PRIORITIES WHICH AFFECT YOUNG PEOPLE. I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU TO MEET THIS CHALLENGE